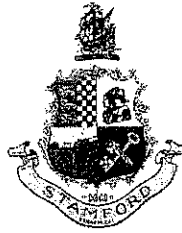


MAYOR
MICHAEL A. PAVIA



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Testimony of Mayor Michael A. Pavia Concerning HB 5394 Public Safety and Security Committee March 6, 2012

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee my name is Michael Pavia and I am the Mayor of the City of Stamford. I am here today to respectfully urge your support for HB 5394 - An Act Concerning Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Alarms in Residential Buildings.

On Christmas morning December 25, 2011, I experienced a tragedy that no other Mayor or elected official should ever have to experience in the State of Connecticut or throughout the United States. Helplessly, I saw the devastating effects that fire could have on an entire family. At approximately 4:52 in the morning, a frantic phone call was made to our 911 emergency call center *"There's a huge fire at the house next door to us. The whole house is on fire. There's three kids and a woman"*.

The fire was so far advanced when Firefighters arrived on the scene; it was consuming the entire house. Firefighters made a brave and valiant effort to try and rescue the three young children and their grandparents, but there was nothing that they could do. The early morning fire claimed the lives of three young children, Lily Badger (age 9), and twin sisters Sarah and Grace Badger (age 7) and their Grandparents Lomer and Pauline Johnson.

This was probably the most tragic Christmas in the City of Stamford's history. The three young Badger girls and their Grandparents were unable to escape from the effects of the fire, heat and smoke. The family did not have enough warning to exit the building. As time went on and the fire went unnoticed, the fire grew in intensity and spread. It consumed the entire house before a call for help was made.

Every year in the United States, approximately 2,650 people die in home fires. Most of these deaths occur in homes that don't have working smoke detection. According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke detection.

A working smoke alarm significantly increases the individual's chance of surviving a deadly home fire. A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in the home that can alert individuals and families of fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Carbon monoxide detectors are as important to home safety as are smoke detectors. Every year in the United States, more than 150 people die from accidental non fire related carbon monoxide poisoning. Connecticut experienced tragedy immediately after the October snow storm, the loss of five people to carbon monoxide poisoning. There were no functioning carbon monoxide detector(s) present.

Whether individuals are awake or asleep, properly working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are needed in residential buildings. They provide warning of dangerous conditions to provide for a safe escape and the timely notification of emergency rescue workers. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors are constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire, smoke or carbon monoxide. The victims in Stamford, Connecticut that died in the horrific Christmas morning fire and those victims that died from carbon monoxide poisoning in Connecticut did not have enough warning to exit the building.

As the Mayor of the City of Stamford, I appeal to you in the name of public safety and security. I hope to never feel helpless again. Please don't let the deaths of Lily Badger (age 9), and twin sisters Sarah and Grace Badger (age 7) and their Grandparents Lomer and Pauline Johnson be in vain. I respectfully urge your support for HB 5394 - An Act Concerning Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Alarms in Residential Buildings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael A. Pavia".

Michael A. Pavia
Mayor